

## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of claims to replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for correcting a ground rule violation for a target via pair in a design, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

identifying a target via pair that violates a ground rule; then

generating a redundant via for a target via of the target via pair where the redundant via corrects the ground rule violation; and

removing the target via corresponding to the redundant via to correct the ground rule violation.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating [[step]] includes generating a redundant via for each target via of the target via pair, and the removing [[step]] includes removing the redundant via for one of the target vias and removing the redundant via for the other of the target vias.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~identifying the target via pairs that violate a ground rule prior to generating the redundant via, and distinguishing those~~ the target via pairs pair from other structure.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ identifying which target vias acquired a redundant via by the generating [[step]] prior to the removing [[step]], and distinguishing those target vias from other structure.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the ground rule is a different-net spacing ground rule.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating [[step]] includes generating the redundant ~~structure~~ via where no spacing ground rule violation occurs for a new technology.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ repeating the generating and removing [[steps]] for each level of a design.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for correcting a ground rule violation for a target via pair in a design, the system comprising:

means for identifying a target via pair that violates a ground rule;

means for generating a redundant via for a target via of the target via pair where the redundant via corrects the ground rule violation; and

means for removing the target via corresponding to the redundant via to correct the ground rule violation.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the generating means includes means for generating a redundant via for each target via of the target via pair, and the removing means includes means for removing the redundant via for one of the target vias and removing the redundant via for the other of the target vias.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, further comprising ~~the means for identifying the target via pairs that violate a ground rule prior to generating the redundant vias,~~ and means for distinguishing ~~those~~ the target via ~~pairs~~ pair from other structure.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for identifying which target vias acquired a redundant via prior to removing the target via, and means for distinguishing those target vias from other structure.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the ground rule is a different-net spacing ground rule.

13. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the generating means includes means for generating the redundant structure where no spacing ground rule violation occurs for a new technology.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for repeating the

generating and removing [[steps]] for each level of a design.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising a computer ~~useable~~ readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, executable by a computer for correcting a ground rule violation for a target via pair in a design, the program product comprising:

program code for identifying a target via pair that violates a ground rule;

program code configured to generate a redundant via for a target via of the target via pair where the redundant via corrects the ground rule violation; and

program code configured to remove the target via corresponding to the redundant via to correct the ground rule violation.

16. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the generating code includes program code configured to generate a redundant via for each target via of the target via pair, and the removing code includes program code configured to remove the redundant via for one of the target vias and removing the redundant via for the other of the target vias.

17. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 15, further comprising ~~the program code configured to identify the target via pairs that violate a ground rule prior to the generating code execution, and~~ program code configured to distinguish ~~those~~ the target via ~~pairs~~ pair from other structure.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the ground rule is a different-net spacing ground rule.

20. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 15, wherein the generating code includes program code configured to generate the redundant ~~structure~~ via where no spacing ground rule violation occurs for a new technology.